

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 INR-07 L-02 SP-02 /025 W  
----- 088301

R 190424Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2601  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

CONFIDENTIAL SINGAPORE 2098

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAIR, TH, SN  
SUBJ: CIVAIR: PROSPECTS FOR AIR SIAM

REF: A. STATE 106914 NOTAL B. ENGELBRECHT LETTER TO PARR  
(AMEMBASSY BANGKOK) OF 3/18/75

1. AIR CHARTER ENTERPRISES IS WHOLLY OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE AND ITS PRIMARY ACTIVITY IS COMMERCIAL LEASING OF AIRCRAFT. IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1969 AND WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO OPERATE AS A CARRIER OF SUPPLIES AND PERSONNEL BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND OUTLYING AREAS NOT SERVICED BY REGULAR AIRLINES. THE GOS IS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT INQUIRIES RWHTHE FIRM AND WE HAPQ NOT BEEN ABLE TO EXAMINE THE COMPANY'S FILE AT THE REGISTRY OF COMPANIES. HOWEVER, ITS CHIEF EXECUTIVES ARE ONG KAH KOK AND CHEW SWEE CHUA AND IT IS CONTROLLED BY SHENG LI HOLDING CO. (A MIN DEF HOLDING COMPANY).

2. ALTHOUGH NAME IS INSUFFICIENT TO MAKE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION, M.T. CHANG MAY BE CHANG MING THIEN, A WEALTHY MALAYSIAN CHINESE WITH INVESTMENTS IN BANKING, HOTELS AND PTDUSZMY, MOSTLY IN MALAYSIA. HE IS SAID TO HAVE CONTROLLING INTEREST IN FOLLOWING FIRMS: FABER MERLIN MALAYSIA BHD., UNITED MALAYAN BANKING

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CORPORATION GROUP, UNITED MALAYAN AGRICULTURAL CORPORATION BHD.,

PAPER PRODUCTS (M) BHD., UNITED MALAYAN FLOUR MILLS BHD., AND  
SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING SINGAPORE COMPANIES:  
HOTEL MERLIN SINGAPORE LTD., KHONG GUAN FLOUR MILLS LTD.,  
NATIONAL IRON & STEEL MILLS LTD. IN SINGAPORE. CHANG MING THIEN  
IS JUST ONE OF THE MORE SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMEN, BUT IN MALAYSIA  
HE IS REPORTEDLY NOT ONLY PROMINENT BUT ALSO INFLUENTIAL THROUGH  
HIS GOOD CONTACTS IN THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT. IT HAS BEEN AL-  
LEDGED, BUT NOT CONFIRMED, THAT CHANG MING THIEN WAS FORMERLY  
ENGAGED IN SMUGGLING AND IS AN OPPORTUNISTIC AND ADVENTUROUS  
BUSINESSMAN. HIS BUSINESS CONNECTIONS WITH THAILAND MAY NOT BE  
AS STRONG AS THOSE WITH MALAYSIA, BUT THEY ARE DESCRIBED AS  
GOOD. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT BUSINESSMEN WHO HAVE HAD  
EXPERIENCE WITH HIM EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION IN THEIR DEALINGS.

3. WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT TIES WITH AIR SIAM BY  
EITHER AIR CHARTER ENTERPRISES OR CHANG MING THIEN, BUT EMBASSY  
WILL FORWARD THIS INFORMATION IF IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. CRONK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REORGANIZATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, AIR ROUTES, NEGOTIATIONS, GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 MAY 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D750175-0209  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVAIR: PROSPECTS FOR AIR SIAM  
**TAGS:** EAIR, TH, SN, US, AIR SIAM, TIA, (CHANG MING THIEN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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